CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A recording method for recording data in a recording area of an information recording medium, comprising:

interrupting a formatting process and recording data; and

determining whether to perform a defect detection process on at least a portion of the recording area in which the data are recorded based on a predetermined determination criterion pertaining to recording attribute information of the data~~;~~

~~wherein the defect detection process is performed on an acquired defect~~.

2. (Original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recording area includes an area on which the defect detection process is already performed at least once.

3. (Original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes information on a data size of the data; and

the determination criterion corresponds to a criterion of determining to perform the defect detection process when the data size of the data is less than or equal to a preset first threshold value.

4. (Withdrawn) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes division information pertaining to dividing the data into a plurality of data sections; and

the determination criterion corresponds to a criterion of determining to perform the defect detection process when a data section of which a data size is less than or equal to a preset second threshold value exists among the data sections, the defect detection process being performed on at least a portion of the recording area in which said data section is recorded.

5. (Withdrawn) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes information pertaining to the recording area in which the data are recorded; and

the determination criterion corresponds to a criterion of determining to perform the defect detection process when the recording area includes an area that is in a vicinity of a known defect area.

6. (Withdrawn) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a second step of performing the defect detection process when a determination is made in the first step to perform the defect detection process to determine whether a defect area is included in the processing area; and

a third step of recording defect area data in a predetermined replacement area when a defect area is detected in the second step.

7. (Original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the defect detection process corresponds to a verification process.

8. (Original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information recording medium conforms to a Mt. Rainier standard.

9 - 11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) An information recording apparatus that is adapted to record information on an information recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

formatting means for performing a formatting process on the information recording medium;

recording means for recording data on the information recording medium after interrupting the formatting process in response to a recording request from an external apparatus; and

determination means for determining after the recording of the data whether to perform a defect detection process on at least a portion of the recording area in which the data are recorded based on recording attribute information of the data~~;~~

~~wherein the portion of the recording area contains an acquired defect~~.

13. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

replacement means for performing the defect detection process when a determination is made by the determination means to perform the defect detection process, and if a defect area is detected, recording defect area data of the defect area in a predetermined replacement area.

14. (Original) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes information on a data size of the data; and

the determination means determines to perform the defect detection process when the data size of the data is less than or equal to a preset first threshold value.

15. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

a memory for temporarily storing the data, wherein

the first threshold value is set to a value corresponding to an amount of data that can be stored in the memory.

16. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes division information pertaining to dividing the data into a plurality of data sections; and

the determination means determines to perform the defect detection process when a data section of which a data size is less than or equal to a preset second threshold value exists among the data sections, the defect detection process being performed on at least a portion of the recording area in which said data section is recorded.

17. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a memory for temporarily storing the data, wherein

the second threshold value is set to a value corresponding to an amount of data that can be stored in the memory.

18. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

the recording attribute information includes information pertaining to the recording area in which the data are recorded; and

the determination means determines to perform the defect detection process when the recording area in which the data are recorded includes an area that is in a vicinity of a known defect area.

19. (Withdrawn) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

a memory for temporarily storing the data, wherein

the determination means obtains information on a partial recording area in which data remaining in the memory are recorded based on the recording attribute information, and determines to perform the defect detection process on said partial recording area.

20. (Original) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the defect detection process corresponds to a verification process.

21. (Original) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the information recording medium conforms to a Mt. Rainier standard.

22. (Previously Presented) A recording method for recording data in a recording area of an information recording medium, comprising:

performing a formatting process on the information recording medium;

performing a first verification process on at least a portion of the recording area during the formatting process;

recording data in said portion of the recording area after interrupting the formatting process;

performing a detection process on an acquired defect in said recording area; and

determining whether to perform a second verification process on said portion of the recording area based on whether a predetermined determination criterion has been met.

23. (Previously Presented) A recording method for recording data in a recording area of an information recording medium, comprising:

performing a formatting process on the information recording medium;

recording the data in at least a portion of the recording area after interrupting the formatting process;

performing a detection process on an acquired defect in said recording area; and

determining whether to perform a verification process on the portion of the recording area based on whether the size of the data is less than or equal to a threshold value.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A recording method for recording data in a recording area of an information recording medium, comprising:

performing a formatting process on the information recording medium;

recording a portion of the data in a designated area of the recording area after interrupting the formatting process;

determining whether to perform a verification process on the designated area based on whether the corresponding recording unit size of the portion of data is less than or equal to a threshold value; and

performing a detection process on an acquired defect in said designated area.

26. (Canceled).

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the defect detection process is configured to detect acquired defects.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the defect detection process is configured to detect inherent defects.

29. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the defect detection process is configured to detect acquired defects.

30. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the defect detection process is configured to detect inherent defects.